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quick facts on...

# Kissimmee River Restoration

DECEMBER 2008

## The South Florida Water Management District

is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.

**Our Mission** is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems, and water supply.

## Project Description

The South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are collaborating on the Kissimmee River Restoration and the Kissimmee River Headwaters Revitalization projects. In total, these projects will restore ecological integrity to approximately 20 square miles of river/floodplain habitat and more than 40 continuous miles of meandering river channel. This will reestablish the river/floodplain system's ecological integrity by reconstructing the river's physical form and reestablishing pre-channelization hydrologic characteristics. These projects will also provide the water storage and regulation schedule modifications needed to approximate the historical flow characteristics of the Kissimmee River system and increase the quantity and quality of shoreline habitat in lakes Kissimmee, Hatchineha, Tiger and Cypress for the benefit of fish and wildlife.

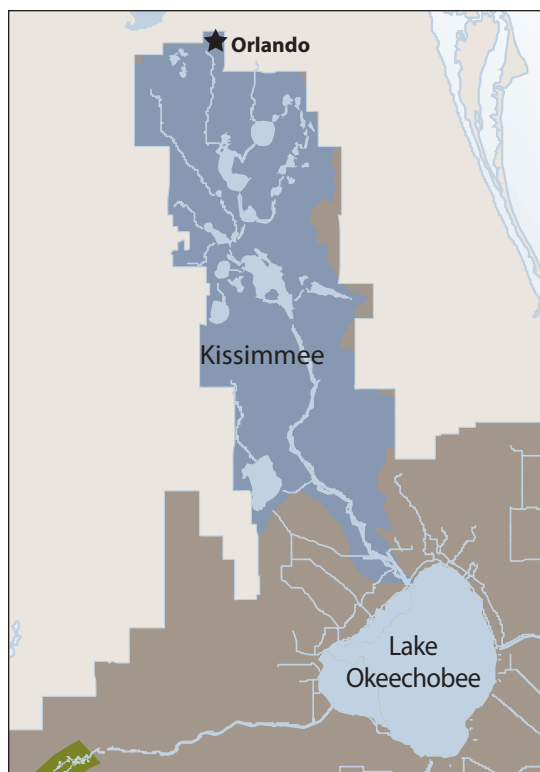
## Project Benefits

- Restoring river and floodplain habitat to increase populations of native plant and wildlife, including dozens of species of wading birds and waterfowl.
- Improving dissolved oxygen levels in Kissimmee River waters to increase populations of bass and other sunfishes.
- Flushing organic sediments from the once-stagnant river channels.
- Restoring ecological integrity to a portion of the ecosystem while retaining existing levels of flood protection for surrounding communities.
- Assisting Everglades Restoration by improving upstream conditions in the Kissimmee River and floodplain.



*Restoring Kissimmee River and floodplain habitat increases populations of native plants and wildlife, including dozens of species of birds and waterfowl, such as this great blue heron.*





## Project Status

- Restoration construction in the Lower Basin started in 1999 and is being implemented in four phases, projected to be completed in 2013.
- The first of four major phases of canal backfilling was completed in early 2001, resulting in 15 continuous miles of reconnected river channel and reclaiming almost 6,000 acres of floodplain wetlands.
- The second phase of construction was completed in September 2007, resulting in the backfilling of 1.8 miles of the C-38 canal, restoration of 4 miles of river channel, removal of three weirs and excavation of some portions of river channel.
- More than 100,000 acres of land needed for the restoration and other purposes have been acquired.
- It is projected that all restoration-related construction will be completed by 2013 and evaluation of restoration success will continue through 2018.
- Most Upper Basin projects are complete.



*The first of four major phases of canal backfilling has been completed, resulting in 15 continuous miles of reconnected river channel and reclaiming almost 6,000 acres of floodplain wetlands.*



JR12/15/08

**sfwmd.gov**

**South Florida Water Management District**  
**3301 Gun Club Road**  
**West Palm Beach, Florida 33406**  
**561-686-8800 • 800-432-2045**  
**www.sfwmd.gov**

**MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 24680**  
**West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680**

### SERVICE CENTERS

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**Lower West Coast**  
 239-338-2929 or 800-248-1201

**Martin/St. Lucie**  
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**Okeechobee**  
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 561-682-6000 or 800-432-2045